

DIGEST OF PRESS AND EVENTS, No. 125, 16th June, 1946.

- 29 -

Padua. This has led to the belief that the current Anglo-Egyptian treaty talks will be discussed and that a resolution will be adopted supporting Egypt's standpoint on the negotiations.

(Routier & Peltor)

THE EX-MUFTI OF JERUSALEM

D 3. Abbas al Yom - (Egyptian weekly) - 6/7/46: ... The Palestine Arabs decided that the chairmanship of the Arab Higher Committee should remain vacant until the return of the Mufti. This decision apparently impressed the British and they adopted a less rigorous attitude towards that Arab leader, who will soon be able to resume the struggle for his people and country. His whole career has been one long adventure.

In 1937 he took refuge at the Mosque in Jerusalem, whereupon Government sent Indian Moslem soldiers to enter the Mosque and arrest him. Great fear was felt lest this action might result in a bloody battle within the holy precincts. Suddenly, a Bedouin came out from the Mosque who later reappeared in a boat on the Lebanese coast. This Bedouin was none other than the Mufti.

Again, in 1939, when the Mufti was staying at his residence in the Lebanon the heart of every Arab was filled with fear lest the French might hand him over to the authorities who demanded his extradition. He was kept under close guard. One day a veiled woman came out from his house and entering a car departed for Iraq. A few hours later it was known that the Mufti had reached the Iraqi frontier.

His greatest adventure occurred in 1941. He was then in Teheran, trying to get to Turkey. He was, however, unsuccessful. The invasion of Persia being imminent, everyone trembled at the thought of what might happen to the Mufti. The only alternative left to him was either to give himself up or hide from the authorities. But where could he find a safe hiding place? Finally, he found refuge at the Embassy of a neutral country. Later, he applied to the Persian Government requesting that he be transferred to a neutral country. The British authorities who were informed of the request refused to grant permission unless he first delivered himself up to them. Shortly afterwards, an exchange of Persian and Italian nationals took place. Among the Italians there was one elegantly dressed and clean-shaven, known by the name of Emanuel. This Italian departed together with the other Italians. After a few days they arrived in Turkey where they stayed for a few days and then proceeded to Bulgaria. Here the elegant Italian donned his Arab garb, grew a beard and Haj Amin al Husseini felt himself free again. From Bulgaria he proceeded to Albania and finally arrived in Italy. (The paper does not say where he went from Italy).

The Star in Bluden

D 4. Ad Difa'a - 11/6/46: The star of Arabism is now shining in Bluden, heralding Arab glory and the good of humanity. Bluden has always initiated great deeds, invoking at the same time memories of a painful past. A nation has assembled today in Bluden to greet the great day and to welcome the propitious omen.

What is happening in Bludan today is an unexpected victory. Indeed, a victory for the Arab struggle and good news for the Arabs and for Palestine in particular. It is the best result of patience and the most luscious of all fruits. The Bludan Day has demonstrated the difference between a grim yesterday fraught with fear and a tomorrow replete with energy, hopes and unity under the spreading wing of Arabism. Palestine has given proof of long patience while suffering great miseries and sustaining disasters. Today, it is in a festive mood, restored to its faith by kings, emirs of all the Islamic and Arab worlds which are shaking off the detested oppression.

We greet the Bludan Day and the one who appeared in Bludan.

PALESTINE

NEW "ARAB HIGHER FRONT" FORMED

D 5 Palestine Post - 4/6/46: The formation of a new organization to be styled the "Arab Higher Front" was announced in Jerusalem yesterday by the five Arab opposition parties. The Council of the new "Front" states that this step should not be interpreted as internal dissension or a difference in national aims to Jamal Hussein's "Arab Higher Committee."

The "Front" comprises three delegates from each of the five parties, and representatives of the Arab Labour Congress of Jeffe and the League of National Liberation, as well as several independent personalities. The Council is composed of Auni Bey Abdul Hadi, Dr. Hussein Khelidi, Yacub eff. Hussein, Suliman Bey Toqan, Hemdi eff. Hussaini, Dr. Kamel Harnoun, and Emile eff. Tuma.

The first political action of the Council has been to cable Azem Pashe of the Arab League, asking him to submit the Palestine case to the Uno Security Council.

Welcome from the 'Left'

D 6 Al Ittihad - (Palestine communist weekly) - 9/6/46: The setting up of the Arab Higher Front was an urgent national need so that we might be able to join efforts for the national struggle. The new national body welcomes to its ranks any organisation willing to join it and recognise its principles. The Higher Front includes a number of leading personalities actively engaged in national work regardless of their party affiliation. Its aim is the realisation of our national aspirations embodied in the national pact, i.e. . the complete independence of Palestine within a wider Arab unity, repudiation of any collaboration with the Imperialist Power, the setting up of a representative government, the evacuation of all foreign troops from the country, complete stoppage of Jewish immigration, prevention of land sales and finally strict implementation of the boycott of Jewish goods. The Higher Front will act in close collaboration with the neighbouring countries, their governments, and people.